Selling of PSUs through disinvestment

2374. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to sell public sector undertakings through disinvestment;

(b) if so, whether Government have also decided not to disinvest the shares of blue chip public sctor companies;

(c) whether Government have given clearance for disinvestment in 11 public sector *enterprises*;

(d) whether Minister for Heavy Industries had opposed privatizing the blue-chip PSUs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Government decides to disinvest it equity, or fully, in Public Sector Enterprises in accordance with the declared disinvestment policy. As stated in the budget speech for 2000-2001, the disinvestment policy of the Government applicable to all Public Sector Enterprises is to bring down the Government equity to 26% or below in generality of cases. In cases of Public Sector Enterprises involving strategic considerations, Government will continue to retain majority holding.

It has also been decided that the Strategic Public Sector Enterprises would be those in the areas of:

(i) Arms and ammunitions and the allied items of defence aquipment, defence aircrafts and warships

(*ii*) Atomic energy (except in the areas related to the generation of nuclear power and applications of radiaiton and radio-isotopes to agriculture medicine and non-strategic industries)

(iii) Railway transport

(c) Government considers the disinvestment proposals in various companies from time to time. At present in the following 17 cases the disinvestment has been cleared and the 'advisors' have been appointed:Bharat Aluminum Company Ltd., Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd., HTL Ltd., BRL Ltd., Scooters India Ltd., Engineering Projects India Ltd., NEPA Ltd., Hindustan Cables Ltd., Instrumentation Ltd.,m Engineering Projects India Ltd., NEPA Ltd., Hindustan Cables Ltd., Instrumentation Ltd., Bharat Leather Ltd., Air India, Indian Airlines, Indian Tourism Development Corporation Ltd., Madras Fertilizers Ltd., National Fertilizers Ltd., Hindustan Copper Ltd., and Jessop & Company Ltd. In 2 cases, disinvestment has been cleared but advisors are yet to be appointed. These are Hindustan organis Chemicals LTd. and MSTC LTD.

(d) and (e) Before taking a final decision regarding disinvestment in a Public Sector Company, the views of the all the concerned departments/ministries are considered by the Government through the process of inter ministerial consultations. The ministries often suggest amendments and improvements to the specific proposals under the consideration of the Government. There is no disagreement on the policy of the disinvestment.

Loss Jobs due to Privatisation

2375. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governemnt have made any assessment about the extent of loss of jobs that follows privatization of PSUs as per Disinvestment Plans by the end of current year and by the time the planned disinvestments complete; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the number of unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled labour likely to be rendered jobless?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) All the